

II. RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Claims 1, 14, 42 and 52 have been amended to even more particularly point out and claim the subject matter of the claims. New claims 64-90 have been added. Claims 61-63 have been canceled. Claims 1-60 and 64-90 are pending in the present application.

Support for the new claims and claim amendments may be found in the claims as originally filed and throughout the Specification, for example, at page 10, line 24 to page 11, line 30, and in the Figures.

A. The Rejections Over Tanaka

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5, 10, 11, 14-17, 21-22, 42-45, 52-54 and 56-57 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over Tanaka (JP2000321475A) and rejected claims 4, 7-8, 20, 46 and 55 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Tanaka in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,178,156 to Kuwajima. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the following reasons.

Amended independent claims 1, 15 and 42 recite, in part, “wherein said stationary coil component is disposed around said moving lens component” and amended independent claim 52 recites, in part, “said stationary coil component being disposed around said moving lens.”

In order to support an anticipation rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), each and every element of the rejected claim must be found in the cited art. In the present case, Tanaka does not disclose, teach or suggest a stationary coil component that is disposed around a moving lens component. Thus, each of independent claims 1, 15, 42 and 52, and the claims dependent therefrom, are novel and nonobvious over Tanaka. Kuwajima

adds nothing in this regard. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-4, 5, 7-8, 10, 11, 14-17, 20-22, 42-46, and 52-57 be withdrawn. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

B. The New Claims

New claims 64-66, 69-71, 74, 79-81, 87, and 90 each recite “one or more ferromagnetic fluid bearings.” In the office action, the Examiner objected to original claims 6, 9, and 47 which each recited “one or more ferromagnetic fluid bearings.” Although new claims 64-66, 69-71, 74, 79-81, 87, and 90 do not include all the limitations of the base claims from which original claims original claims 6, 9, and 47 depended, new claims 64-66, 69-71, 74, 79-81, 87, and 90 are allowable because they include the above-noted limitation from original claims 6, 9, and 47 and because original claims 6, 9, and 47 were not rejected in the Office Action.

New claims 67-68, 72-73, 77-78, 82-83 each recite, or depend from a claim that recites, a “folded light path optical block.” In the office action, the Examiner objected to original claims 12-13, 23-24, 49-50 and 58-59 which each recited, or depended from a claim that recited, a “folded light path optical block.” Although new claims 67-68, 72-73, 77-78, 82-83 do not include all the limitations of the base claims from which original claims original claims 12-13, 23-24, 49-50 and 58-59 depended, new claims 67-68, 72-73, 77-78, 82-83 are allowable because they include the above-noted limitation from original claims 12-13, 23-24, 49-50 and 58-59 and because original claims 12-13, 23-24, 49-50 and 58-59 were not rejected in the Office Action.

New claims 75-76 each recite, or depend from a claim that recites, “wherein said optical block assembly comprises at least two of said actuatable lens assemblies, a first one of said at least two actuatable lens assemblies comprising a moving focus lens, and a second one of said at least two actuatable lens assemblies comprising a moving zoom lens.” In the office action, the Examiner objected to original claims 48 and 51 which each recited, or depended from a claim that recited, “wherein said optical block assembly comprises at least two of said actuatable lens assemblies, a first one of said at least two actuatable lens assemblies comprising a moving focus lens, and a second one of said at least two actuatable lens assemblies comprising a moving zoom lens.” Although new claims 75-76 do not include all the limitations of the base claims from which original claims 48 and 51 depended, new claims 75-76 are allowable because they include the above-noted limitation from original claims 48 and 51 and because original claims 48 and 51 were not rejected in the Office Action.

New claims 84 recites “controlling said movement of said moving lens component in tandem with controlling movement of a different moving lens component of a different lens assembly of said optical block such that the movement speed of said moving lens component equals the movement speed of said different moving lens assembly.” In the office action, the Examiner objected to original claim 60 which recited “controlling said movement of said moving lens component in tandem with controlling movement of a different moving lens component of a different lens assembly of said optical block such that the movement speed of said moving lens component equals the movement speed of said different moving lens assembly.” Although new claim 84 does not include all the limitations of the base claims from which original claim 60 depended,

new claim 60 is allowable because it includes the above-noted limitation from original claim 60 and because original claim 60 was not rejected in the Office Action.

New assembly claims 85-87 each recite, or depend from a claim that recites, “a moving video lens component” and “a damping mechanism coupled to said moving video lens component and configured to dampen focus or zoom movement of said moving video lens component.” New method claims 88-90 each recite, or depend from a claim that recites “a moving video lens component,” “a damping mechanism coupled to said moving video lens component and configured to dampen focus or zoom movement of said moving video lens component,” and “damping focus or zoom movement of said moving video lens component using a damping mechanism coupled to said moving video lens component.”

In the office action, the Examiner states that “Ku wajima discloses an optical pickup device with a damping mechanism coupled to the moving lens component by floating springs (2) to produce ‘a vibration damping characteristic.’” However, Ku wajima discusses “[a] vibration force applied to the substrate 1 when *disturbance vibration is exerted to the base frame 3*” and addresses “how to damp the vibration force *transmitted to the substrate 1* by using the floating springs 2, the oil dampers 14 and the dynamic damper 100” (see Col. 6, lines 62 to Col. 7, line 3) (emphasis added). Ku wajima’s damping of *disturbance vibration* does not teach or suggest anything regarding damping *focus or zoom movement* of a moving video lens component or a damping mechanism configured to do so. Further, there is no teaching or suggestion provided to combine the “floating springs (2)” of the *disk recording and reproduction apparatus* of Ku wajima with any reference (including Tanaka) to arrive at the damping

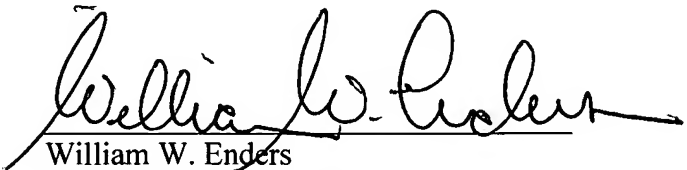
mechanism coupled to a *video lens component* of new claims 85-90 that is configured to dampen focus or zoom movement of said moving video lens component. Therefore new claims 88-90 are allowable.

C. Conclusion

The pending claims have been shown above to be allowable over the cited references. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that claims 1-60 and 64-90 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and claims is courteously solicited.

Attached is a check in the amount of \$1,700.00 for 24 extra dependent claims and 11 extra independent claims. Should any other fees under 37 CFR 1.16-1.21 be required for any reason relating to the enclosed materials, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fees from Deposit Account No. 10-1205/COVI:004. The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the phone number indicated below with any questions or comments, or to otherwise facilitate expeditious and compact prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William W. Enders", written over a horizontal line.

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